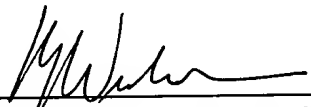


REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to correct multiple dependencies.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,
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3. (Amended) A process according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that said incompressible insert is cylindrical.

4. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding Claims] Claim 1, characterized in that said container is cylindrical.

9. (Amended) Composite manufactured article (40) comprising a dry gel adhering to an incompressible insert obtained according to the process of [any of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1.

10. (Amended) Composite manufactured article comprising a glass part adhering to an incompressible insert obtained according to the process of [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1.

11. (Amended) Preform for optical fiber (50) obtained according to the process of [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, in which the covering (51) consists of pure silicon dioxide and the incompressible insert (52) is a dense cylinder of a mixed glass of silica base with additions of oxides of other elements.

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